

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SAB-01 /014 R

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O 071833Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR NOON BRIEFING
MAY 7 ON IF ASKED BASIS.

2. QUESTION: PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TACK REPORTEDLY
TOLD EFE MAY 5 THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE AT AN "IMPASSE"
BECAUSE OF PENTAGON HARD-LINING AND CONGRESSIONAL
OPPOSITION. THAT'S A LOT DIFFERENT THAN WE'VE BEEN HEARING.
IS IT TRUE?

3. ANSWER: I AM AWARE OF THE NEWS REPORT. IT IS
PERPLEXING, SINCE FROM THIS GOVERNMENT'S PERSPECTIVE IT
IS NOT TRUE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE AT AN IMPASSE.

I HAVE TWO COMMENTS.

FIRST: AT THE OUTSET OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BOTH PARTIES
AGREED TO MOVE CAREFULLY BUT WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED,
WHICH IS THE WAY THEY HAVE BEEN MOVING. THE REASON IS
THAT THE NEGOTIATORS ARE NOT JUST WRITING UP A NEW LEGAL
DOCUMENT TO UPDATE THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIP. RATHER
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THEY ARE CREATING A WHOLE NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO

SOCIETIES.

SECOND: I MIGHT ALSO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT
THAT SEVERAL DAYS AGO, RON NESSEN SPECIFICALLY INDICATED
THE PRESIDENT'S CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.
I AM TOLD OUR NEGOTIATORS CONSIDER, FOR THEIR PART,
THAT THEY ARE PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY.

(NOTE: FURTHER COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE AVOIDED.)
KISSINGER

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